

PATENT

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Final Office Action dated December 8, 2005. Claims 1-24 and 26-56 were examined. This amendment is submitted in attempt to cure the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 in order to place the application in better form for appeal.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 1 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the intended limitation of this claim, and in hope of overcoming the indefiniteness rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 now recites:

1. A non-volatile memory cell array comprising within a first array block a first plurality of ~~independently selectable~~ X-lines configured to be individually selected in a write mode of operation and configured to be simultaneously selected in a read mode of operation, and each associated with a first Y-line group numbering at least one Y-line.

This language is consistent with the position advanced in Applicant's previous Response distinguishing the previous claim language from the La Rosa reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,738,286), in which Applicant describes the La Rosa teaching as follows:

To accomplish this functionality (and as Fig. 6 shows) the word lines WL_m and WL_m' are connected together, and so are simultaneously selected during a read mode, during an erase mode, and during a program mode of operation. Likewise, the word lines WL_{m+1} and WL_{m+1}' are connected together, and so are simultaneously selected during a read mode, during an erase mode, and during a program mode of operation. La Rosa provides no teaching for any mode of operation not consistent with such a pair of word lines being connected together (and thus either both selected or both unselected for *all* operation modes).

PATENT

(Applicant Response filed October 27, 2005, page 12, second paragraph). The amended claim language clarifies that the previously-stated "independently selectable" X-lines may be individually selected in a write (i.e., programming) mode of operation. This limitation is not inconsistent with those same X-lines being simultaneously selected in a read mode of operation.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that this limitation is well supported in the specification as originally filed, including the passage which states:

During *programming*, one of these four word lines 232 is selected at any one time (responsive to decode signals not shown), whereas during *read* mode *all four* word lines 232 are *simultaneously selected* (assuming, of course, that the input signal WLIN1 is selected). Similarly, word line decoder 224 generates a group 233 of four word lines WL5, WL6, WL7, WL8. For the present description, assume that only one input signal WLIN1, WLIN2, is active at any time, and that consequently, only one word line *group of four word lines* is selected during read mode of operation, and *only one word line* itself is selected during programming mode.

(page 11, paragraph 1041, emphasis added), and also the passage which states:

Moreover, even if implemented using write-once memory cells, such a memory array may be "re-written" by programming at least one more cell associated with the opposite bit line group than the number of previously programmed memory cells associated with one bit line group.

(page 2, paragraph 1006).

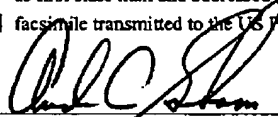
Applicant respectfully submits that the limitation recited in claim 1, as amended, is well supported in the originally-filed specification, and believes that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, has also been overcome.

This amendment largely incorporates the limitation of claim 9 into claim 1, and claim 9 is thus canceled hereby.

PATENT

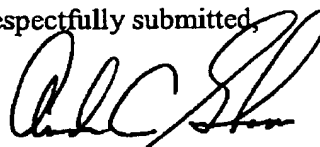
Summary

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been overcome, and requests entry of this amendment in order to present the claims in better form for appeal. Claims 1-8, 10-24, and 26-56 remain in the case.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION	
I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being	
<input type="checkbox"/>	deposited with the US Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail and addressed as shown above.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office.
 Andrew C. Graham	<u>3-8-06</u> Date

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL: _____

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew C. Graham, Reg. No. 36,531
Attorney for Applicant(s)
(512) 338-6313 (direct)
(512) 338-6300 (main)
(512) 338-6301 (fax)